

Where Creativity **GROWS**...

**THE**  
**BIG**

**GREEN**

**WRITING MACHINE**



**NATURE**

**WILDLIFE**

**INSECTS**

**EARTH**

**RECYCLE**

**Today you are going to write a mini saga  
(a story told in up to 100 words) for  
Young Writers' The Big Green Writing Machine  
competition.**

- You could be published in a book
- You could win a creative writing goody bag
- You could win a prize for your school



Grab a pen/pencil if you have paper or a worksheet to write on.

OR

You might be asked to type your work in the Online Writing Portal during this lesson.

**Your teacher will let you know which option  
you are using now!**



Grab a pen or open Word, etc. to  
make your notes...



Let's get started!





Firstly, you're going to watch a short video that introduces you to the activity:



# What is a Mini Saga?

- A mini saga is a story told in 100 words or fewer
- It must have a beginning, middle and an end
- It must be original – you can be inspired by a story but you must make it your own



# What is a Story?

- Tell your teacher your favourite story or historical event
- Your teacher will pick one
- Can you tell your teacher what happens using as few words as possible?





# A Story's Structure

- **The plot** is the main events that happen in the story – you've just told your teacher the plot of the story you've been discussing
- **Setting** – this is where the events happen, this could be in a forest, a desert, on the beach or in another country. In a mini saga, there is usually only one setting
- **Characters** – these are the people/creatures in your story
- **Events** – these are situations or actions that happen to move your story along, this could be someone being kidnapped, a strange visitor, making a new friend, meeting a hero, etc.



Stories also need:

- A beginning – action, dialogue or description to open your story
- A middle – an event to move the story along
- An ending - tie up loose ends or end on a cliffhanger

Remember, a mini saga uses up to 100 words, which means you only have one or two sentences each for the beginning, the middle and the end!



# Identifying Key Events

- Earlier in the lesson you told your teacher a story's plot in as few words as possible
- Now it's time to see if, as a class, you can summarise the story in 100 words...
- Your teacher will make notes on the board
- Once you have all the key events on the board, you can then work together to write a class mini saga.  
(See our tips on the next slide to help you!)



# Tips

- Be brutal – cut out any unnecessary words – do we need to know the building was high or the trees were green or that the main character likes eggs on toast for breakfast? If it's not crucial edit it out!
- Use ellipses (...) to suggest tension, excitement, mystery or danger
- Abbreviate words – 'it is' becomes 'it's' / 'you are' become 'you're', etc.
- You don't have to get exactly 100 words, it can be fewer as long as you don't go over!



# Editing

- Your teacher will read your class mini saga to you
- Is there anything missing?
- Is there anything you want to change?
- Move words/lines around, add in or remove words, add in punctuation and when you are happy with it, count the words... If it's over 100, see where you can abbreviate or edit words out.

**Congratulations, you've written a mini saga!**

**Now it's time to try writing your own...**





# The 5 Ws

It's time to think about the 5 Ws: who, what, where, why and when – these will help you draft a rough plot of your story. Your teacher may give you a person or time to write about, or if not, you can use our idea generator to help you.

## **Who:**

Who features in your story – just your main character or anyone else? Are they good or bad? Don't add in too many characters as you only have 100 words to write your story in!

## **Where and When:**

Where and when is the story set?



## What:

- What happens to your character?
- Every story needs an event or conflict to move the plot along.
- Does your character save the day, have a problem or dilemma?
- Do they cause the problem or help to fix it?
- What will you choose?

## Why:

- Why does the event or conflict happen?
- Why does your character behave the way they do?
- Are they in the wrong place at the wrong time?
- How will you resolve the conflict / dilemma or will you write a cliffhanger ending...?



# Example 1

## The Trapped Turtle

Choking, unable to move, a strangling collar of plastic debris wound tightly around its neck, a turtle drifted along with the current. Suddenly, a figure plunged into the sea, a dolphin at its side. It was Anti-Plastic Girl! Struggling, the turtle tried to untangle itself. Seeing its pain, Anti-Plastic Girl gently unwound its binding necklace. The turtle was free! The pair watched as the turtle swam off into the abyss. Anti-Plastic Girl's dolphin nudged her. She looked up and saw something horrific: a thick carpet of plastic covered the surface of the water. Even Anti-Plastic Girl couldn't stop this alone...

By Edith Munro (10)



# Example 2

## The Incredible Diary Of A Caterpillar-Soon-To-Be-Butterfly

Dear Diary,

I have just completed my fourteenth day in a chrysalis. I am pretty excited and pumped to become an actual butterfly! But I'm also slightly nervous. My best friend Camilla is a butterfly and she told me that her wings got all disgusting and gooey! I mean, what if that happens to me? I also heard rumours that you don't even have a proper mouth! You have to drink nectar. What even is that? I've only ever eaten leaves. And what if I don't like it? Oh, I'm really not sure I'm so excited and pumped after all!

By Delphine A (9)



## It's time to write your mini saga!

Remember the 3 golden rules of mini saga writing:

1. A mini saga must be no more than 100 words
2. A mini saga must have a beginning, a middle and an end
3. Write in your own words – every word counts, so choose carefully!

Your title isn't part of your word count either!

Write in the 100-word grid on your worksheet.

If you have any questions, ask your teacher now...





# Assessment Time!

Your teacher will now tell you if you are working in groups or checking your own work.

Look out for spelling mistakes, tenses changing and names spelt correctly, etc. and edit if necessary.



It's time to hand your work in to your teacher!

Make sure your name and age are on your work!

Well done for writing a mini saga for The Big Green Writing Machine!



# THE BIG GREEN WRITING MACHINE



WE HOPE  
YOU ENJOYED  
WRITING YOUR POEM  
FOR THE BIG GREEN  
WRITING MACHINE!

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